



Philip L. Browning  
Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Child Support Services Department



February 4, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO RECOGNIZE INCREASED STATE REVENUE  
FOR THE COMPROMISE OF ARREARS PROGRAM (COAP)  
IN THE CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (4-VOTE)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve an Appropriation Adjustment for the Child Support Services Department (CSSD) in the amount of \$521,000 to recognize an increased State allocation and resultant costs for the newly authorized Compromise of Arrears Program (COAP).

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The State Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) has provided CSSD with an additional \$521,000 for fiscal year 2003/04 to fund the newly authorized Compromise of Arrears Program (COAP). This new program was authorized by AB 1752, which was chaptered on 8/11/03, and adds Section 17560 to the Family Code. This new section is intended to enhance collection of arrears by allowing DCSS, or CSSD for amounts less than \$5,000, to accept offers in compromise of arrears and interest accrued thereon which would otherwise reimburse public assistance payments. In order to qualify for compromise of arrears the obligor must:

- Be in compliance with any existing current support order for a set period of time.
- Provide evidence of income and assets which indicate that the offer in compromise of arrears owed is the most that can be expected to be paid or collected.
- Not have reasonable prospects of acquiring increased income or assets that would enable the obligor to pay a greater amount of the arrears in a reasonable period of time.

- Not have concealed assets or delayed payment in anticipation of the offers in compromise program.

The COAP will remain in effect until January 1, 2007. The additional funding provided by DCSS is to establish the program in the current fiscal year. In order to implement the program we are requesting that an adjustment be made to our Services and Supplies appropriation of \$521,000 to hire 135 temporary clerical workers for a period of 90 days (from 3/1/04 to 5/30/04). These temporary contract workers would relieve experienced permanent staff, who could then address the complex legal requirements of the COAP Program as described above.

#### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

Countywide Strategic Plan Goal 5 envisions the improvement of the well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County as measured by the achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by the Board: good health; economic well-being; safety and survival; emotional and social well-being and educational/workforce readiness. The implementation of the Compromise of Arrears Program in CSSD will directly impact the economic well-being of children and families by providing more resources for the financial support of children by their non-custodial parents.

#### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Approval of this request will enable CSSD to implement the newly authorized Compromise of Arrears Program utilizing State funding provided for that purpose. Although the program is scheduled to continue until January 1, 2007, the uncertainty regarding future State funding levels for the entire child support program renders it prudent to hire only temporary workers to minimize the risk and magnitude of a future workforce reduction affecting permanent employees.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

This proposal is cost-neutral to the County of Los Angeles. There is no impact to net County cost.

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

Approval of this request will enhance the provision of child support services to families by gaining increased cooperation from obligors who are faced with large, uncollectable arrears amounts and are therefore reluctant to come forward to meet their current child

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February 4, 2004  
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support obligations. Prior to this newly authorized program, there was no method for reducing the arrears and this has proven to be a barrier to improved family relations and positive parent-child interactions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.L. Browning", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PHILIP L. BROWNING  
Director

PLB:PVB:crd

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTDEPT'S. 371  
No.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

February 4, ~~XX~~ 2004

## AUDITOR-CONTROLLER.

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. WILL YOU PLEASE REPORT AS TO ACCOUNTING AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

## ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR

4 - VOTES

Fiscal Year 2003/04

SOURCEChild Support Services Department  
Fund/Org - 14280  
Revenue - Federal Other  
A01 CD 9001  
\$344,000Child Support Services Department  
Fund/Org - 14280  
Revenue - State Other  
A01 CD 8831  
\$177,000TOTAL - \$521,000USEChild Support Services Department  
Fund/Org - 14280  
Services & Supplies  
A01 CD 2000  
\$521,000JUSTIFICATION:

This Budget Adjustment (BA) is required to appropriate Federal and State funding to the S&amp;S appropriation for the new State funded Compromise of Arrears Program which was authorized by AB1752, chaptered on 8/11/03 (family code Sec 17560). This is intended to enhance collection of arrears, see Board letter attached.

Barbara Rankin  
Barbara Rankin, Fiscal Officer II

## CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR—

ACTION

RECOMMENDATION

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER BY

No. \_\_\_\_\_

19

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

AS REVISED

19

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

APPROVED (AS REVISED):  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

19

BY

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

SEND 6 COPIES TO THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER